

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY TESTIMONY ON BILL 5207

February 25, 2010

To the Labor & Public Employees Committee:

Good afternoon, I am in favor and fully support Raised Bill 5207: An Act Concerning Criminal Background Checks For Prospective State Employees.

We, the members of RISE, Resisting Imprisonment for a Safer Existence, of Wesleyan University, wish to share our full support for Ban the Box. We feel that requesting applicants to divulge history of a felony conviction during the first stage of applying to a job fosters discrimination. It severely limits these peoples' ability to make a living through legal means. In order to end the cycle of imprisonment and recidivism, people leaving prison must have increased access to good jobs, and "banning the box" is a crucial first step in that process.

Thanks so much for all your work on this,

Emily Sheehan & RISE

Contact Emily at emsheehan@wesleyan.edu